

Local Work Group Development of Local EQIP.

Stearns District FY08 EQIP

1. List the local resource concerns that EQIP can address:

Animal Waste Management
Nutrient Management
Water Quality
Soil Erosion
Soil Quality

2. If applicable, list any geographic regions (i.e. watersheds, townships, etc.) and their respective resource concerns within the District to receive priority:

Riparian Corridors, Coarse Textured Soils, TMDL Impaired waters, DWSMA's, and SWPA's. Also, Importance placed on Closure of Waste Impoundment, Wetland Restoration and Well Decommissioning.

3. From items 1 & 2 above prioritize the local resource concerns to be addressed with EQIP funding for the district. Describe a minimum of 3 categories of the highest priority applications which you would want to receive funding.

Agricultural Waste Systems in Riparian areas and Coarse Textured soils.

All applications that address water quality.

All applications converting ALL row crop acreage to: No till, Strip Till or Ridge Till systems.

All applications with three or more practices planned with a minimum of one (1) wildlife practice.

4. Develop a minimum of 3 and maximum of 12 yes/no questions to determine if an application is addressing the high priority concerns described in item 3.

1. Water Quality - the application will address water quality in riparian corridors, coarse textured soils, watersheds and lakesheds of TMDL impaired streams and lakes, SWAA (source water assessment areas), SWPA (source water protection areas), or DWSMA (drinking water supply management areas). **14 points**

2. Water Quality - the application will address water quality concerns in all other areas of the County. **10 points**

3. Soil Erosion – the application will reduce soil loss to T. **8 points**

4. Soil Erosion and Soil Quality – the application will result in a positive increase in the Soil Conditioning Index (SCI). **5 points**

5. Soil Erosion and Water Quality – the application will install practices that result in the implementation of a planned grazing system. **3 points**
6. Wildlife Habitat – the application will install practice (s) that result in the implementation of wetland and or upland wildlife habitat. **6 points**
7. All concerns – the application will result in the installation of practice (s) to address a national priority concern in Stearns County. **2 points**
8. Soil Erosion and Soil Quality – the application will result in the adoption of mulch tillage, No till, Strip Till or Ridge Tillage systems on part of the application area. **4 points**
9. Soil Erosion and Soil Quality – the application will result in the adoption of mulch tillage, No Till, Strip Till or Ridge Tillage systems on ALL of the cropland area. **6 points**
10. The operation is identified as a 5-Star Dairy by the Minnesota Milk Producers Association. **2 points**

5. Assign points to the questions in Item #4 as desired to reflect local priorities. The total points assigned to the questions should be between 35 to 60 points.

6. Submit this worksheet to your respective ASTC(FO). After approval from the state office, the questions will be entered into the Local Issues section of the ranking tool.

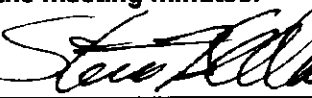
7. List any recommended practices to be deleted from the state Conservation Practice Payment Document

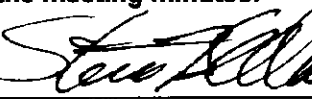
None

The local EQIP program description, cost-share docket changes, and ranking worksheet must be reviewed and approved by the State Conservationist before any EQIP contract is approved and signed.

This document serves as the Local Work Group recommendation for FY 08 EQIP. Attached is a roster of participation in the Local Work Group and the meeting minutes.


Dennis Fuchs
Chair, Local Work Group


Steven L. Sellnow
District Conservationist

 10/17/07
Date

**Stearns County Local Work Group Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 9, 2007**

Uphoff recessed the meeting at 12:45 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 1 p.m. for the Stearns County Local Work Group meeting held in Room 307, Marketplace Mall, Waite Park, MN.

Those in attendance: Jerome Bechtold, Urban Spanier, Chuck Uphoff, Dennis Fuchs, Lori Persson, Steve Sellnow, Jaime Schaunaman, Joni Franklin, Nathan Blankers, and Phyllis Framstad.

Stearns SWCD Chairman Uphoff welcomed the attendees to the Stearns County Local Work Group meeting and thanked everyone for their participation. Uphoff turned the meeting over to Dennis Fuchs, Administrator of the Stearns County SWCD. Fuchs relayed that input will be gathered from stakeholders on resource issues and priorities and be presented to NRCS.

Fuchs turned the program over to Joni Franklin, NRCS Soil Conservationist in the Waite Park Field office. Franklin talked to NRCS's 5-year strategic plan and reviewed NRCS's mission, goals and outcomes for each goal.

Jaime Schaunaman, NRCS Soil Conservationist, reviewed the FY-2008 Business Plan for the NRCS Waite Park Field Office.

Steve Sellnow, NRCS District Conservationist, reviewed past EQIP priorities.

Phyllis Framstad, FSA Director, reported on the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program. There were 108 CRP contracts that expired September 30, 2007. The rental rates have increased twice. The average rental rate per acre is \$102.

Fuchs reported that the SWCD has developed a web log (BLOG) at <http://stearns-swcd.blogspot.com/> where the public can submit comments to the Local Work Group regarding natural resource concerns in Stearns County.

Uphoff commented on how important buffers are along are ditches and streams.

Sellnow summarized the EQIP program. Sellnow requested attendees complete the "Stearns County Resource Concerns" survey.

Uphoff adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.